

CDXC Newsletter

March 1990

Issue 66

Editorial

(Don Field, G3XTT)

Although Bouvet is now behind us, there are a number of prospective DXpeditions to captivate our interest. The brief appearance of S21U suggests that we may see some sustained activity from Bangladesh in the future, Jim Smith now believes he has cracked Bhutan, and an operation may well have taken place by the time you read this. The Hungarians are rumoured to be ready for an operation from Burma, either soon or in the autumn (and with their track record to date we will have to take this rumour seriously). And Marti and Co. are off to Jarvis for what could well count for a new one. This operation will start on 13th or 14th of April and last for 7 to 8 days, and they may go on to activate another rare one before returning to the US. They have been advised that Jarvis should actually have a KH1 prefix, and this really does mean that it ought to count as a new one as it is a very long way indeed from the rest of KH1. All we need now is a major operation from Albania ...

A very warm welcome to new members Basil G2AMV, Neville G3RFS, Alva G4DII, Charles GM4UZU and Gregg G4RTO. CDXC

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really is going from strength to strength at the moment, with membership now up to 119.

There has been very little feedback so far on Roger, G3SXW's observations in the last newsletter. If you have any comments to make, then do feel free to pass them on for the next newsletter and, of course, I am always pleased to receive input on any other HF DX-related topic (isn't every newsletter editor!). Talking about newsletters, I can heartily recommend VP2ML's DX Magazine, published monthly with lots of expedition write-ups and photographs, etc. For the serious contester, NCJ (National Contest Journal) is a must, published nowadays by the ARRL.

The March issue of Radio Communication carried draft proposals for future UK call-signs. Speaking personally, I was horrified at the suggestion that the UK "countries" would be differentiated by a number rather than by the traditional letter (as in GM, GD, etc). This will cause great confusion around the world. If you feel as I do, then write in to the RSGB, or to G3HCT who is coordinating the correspondence on behalf of the Licensing Advisory Committee.

Do take note of Ian's piece and be sure either to attend the Annual Review Meeting or to make your views known to the Committee beforehand. The agenda will be as per the new Constitution which was agreed last year and published subsequently in this newsletter.

The next Newsletter will be published in time to be passed out at the Review Meeting. I have now been editing the newsletter for over four years (my first was in Feb.86), having taken over the reins *temporarily* when Bren gave up the job. I will edit the next one, but intend to stand down at the A.R.M. Volunteers please.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

(Ian Shepherd, G4LJF)

Hello from a very battered QTH! I hope you fared better than I and unfortunately several others during the storms of January 5th! I had the misfortune both to be trying to land at Heathrow that afternoon, and coming home to see a very broken tower, with substantial damage to just about every antenna except the Cluster's 4M vertical! This too for the second time in two years!

Fortunately, repairs are under way, and I hope to be back in full swing in two to three weeks from now. Unfortunately, as things have a habit of doing, nothing seems to go smoothly when you most need it. For example, it took Telex/Hygain almost a full month to respond to my order for spares, and then it was only to be told that they would not accept my credit card, and that I would have to pay in advance! Thank goodness KLM/Mirage, from whom most of my antennas come, were on the ball, otherwise I still would not have started

rebuilding the aerials!

I suppose that we, who enjoy a hobby where we are able to communicate with anywhere in the world within a split second, get more frustrated than most when it comes to communications by terrestrial means, but even so, I am disappointed at the widely varying standard in Customer Service that exists from one Ham Radio supplier to the other. The old adage that Big Is Not Beautiful proved true once again, and it was the small supplier who showed keenness to please. (We once said all this a while ago when two certain British airlines decided to merge into one.....!).

How fortunate the timing of the gales was though! In between the XW and A5/KH5 ops! Hasn't it been a bit of an anticlimax during the last six weeks, after all the superb DX we have been having this winter. I guess being reduced to my vertical four feet above the back lawn has had a dampening effect, though I managed to work KH6 on 10M CW first call with it! It's surprising how well that little Fritzel vertical that I use on expeditions does work, and I hear that G3GIQ and G3KMA have also replaced their storm damaged beams with Fritzel yagis. It will be interesting to see how they get out, especially Henry, who had a KT34A before.

Turning to Club matters, may I firstly congratulate our Editor Don G3XTT on the superb new layout of the News Letter. A most professional finish Don. Thank you.

I have not received any comment regarding the frequency of News Letters, and so we will have to thrash that one out at the ARM. which we have pencilled in for Sunday 27th May 2 pm at G4LJF. I hope you will be able to attend. If you do, then please bring a chair to sit on!

CDXC Committee:

President	G3HTA
Chairman	G4LJF
Vice-Chairman	G4JVG
Secretary	G3LQP
Treasurer	G4GED
Newsletter	G3XTT

Other Officers:

Awards Manager	G4GED
Social Secretary	G4JVG
Wants List	GW4BLE
Newsletter Printing and Distribution	G4PEO

Club Net: Mondays, 7pm local time, 3773kHz
Club Alerting Frequencies: 144.525 & 70.385MHz
Packet Cluster: G4LJF-4 on 70.325MHz
or via WOK22 on 144.675MHz

Deadline for next newsletter: 19th May 1990

EDXC
CHILTERN DX CLUB

Packet Cluster

As my tower is 30 feet shorter than it ought to be at the moment, the link to Handcross has been unreliable, but all should be back to normal soon.

Thanks to Don G3OZF, there is now a 4M Node near Aylesbury, G3OZF-4 or AYL54, which will open a route up to the North.

Bob G8HBE-4 is another 4M node located just South of Swindon. If I can work this direct, then we will have a very good start to our link to the West country, without troubling G3RZP to provide the service. The only problem at the moment is that Bob is reluctant to change his inactivity timeout from 15 minutes to six hours, which is more or less essential for Cluster users. Other nodes have made the change with no apparent side effects, and I will have another go at changing his mind when he returns from abroad.

G0BMU can now connect reliably to GW4BLE since both Tim and Steve went horizontally polarized, and so there is a better 4M route from the West to the Cluster digipeating through G0BMU.

Despite our present routing problems, we have seen some far off users on the Cluster of late, including GW3YDX from North Wales! G4GED, G0HSD and G3YMC have joined, and I know a number of others are tooling up! Two new Clusters are about to emerge. One in Cheltenham, and the other in Leeds. We will certainly be able to pass DX spots to Cheltenham, and I foresee that we will soon be emulating the set up that exists in the States with about 20 users on each local Node, but each Node exchanging DX information with it's 'neighbours', thus in reality having around 60 or so spotters' all hooked up together. This will be a really effective way of combing the DX....providing we all make an effort and tune across the bands, and not leave it for someone else to do. Please make an effort to scan through the bands at least once every hour. The following have contributed towards getting the Cluster going with either a donation of funds or equipment. As a

result, we have a small surplus of money that will be ploughed back into software updates and more equipment to improve the routes.

G3XTT, G4DYO, G0MFO, G0TKN, G3HTA, G0DQS, G3ZMZ, G3FKH, G4GED, G4PEO, G3ZSS, G3VOW, G4SOF, G0ABI, G3GNR, G3OZF, G3SJJ, G1UND, G4BUE, GW4BLE, G3MXJ, G3XKD, G4CCZ. Thank you everyone for your generous support, without which it could not have happened.

If you too would like to help, then drop me a line. If you think you are in a super spot and would like to become a Node on the 4M routing, then we would be particularly keen to hear from you. By the way, I have now added two new databases to Cluster. The W6GO list is on with over 5400 QSL managers listed, and also a database of all of the US Ham Radio dealers, complete with their telephone numbers. Enter Help QSL or Help Dealer for operating details.

Club QSL Cards

Yes we are nearly there. Thanks to the London post strike, I did not get the proofs as quickly as I had hoped. However, Phil VS6CT brought the first full colour sample over yesterday, and it looks very nice. The colour photo has come out very well, and is in my opinion quite unique. Beneath the photo is a black strip with my WAB, name and address overprinted in gold scroll.

The only problem that I see at the moment is that the call sign and the words Chiltern Dx Club, do not stand out as well as they might, and so I today faxed the printers and suggested that a brighter gloss gold be used, or we switch to black for the call and logo. Either way, it will be a card to be proud of.

I have produced an order form which will be sent out with this newsletter if the sample cards arrive in time. If they don't, and you need cards urgently, then please send me an S.A.E., and I will post you a sample card and order form as soon as they arrive. We will certainly circulate every Member with the next News Letter if we miss the boat with this one.

Final Thoughts

During the last few weeks, I received a letter from a UB5 station, wishing myself and my family the very best of health etc, also enclosing 3 blank QSL cards. The letter says "very please QSL for G4LJF/3B8, G4LJF/V2A and ZD8LJ". Needless to say, I have never worked the Russian station at any time.

Corruption by Soviet stations I have become used to, but my belief in the DXCC system, and my admiration for the worlds top Dx'ers was shattered after a recent visit to Rio de Janeiro.

There I met Rogerio PY1OL and Rick PY1VOY. These two have collated a large file of letters that have been passed on to them by concerned DX'ers, exposing not only some of Brazil's so called top achievers, but also those of Chile, Italy and the USA as persistently trying to fraudulently obtain QSL cards for contacts that they did not work. I won't mention any call signs, but we're talking about some very 'big achievers' in the DX league.

Rogério and Rick have approached at least one leading DX Bulletin asking that they expose these cheats amongst our ranks, but they have been ignored, presumably because the Editor was afraid of being black listed for expeditions that some of these call signs might get involved with. (Not DXNSI!).

If I add my own experiences from my expeditions, I would say that the problem is more that just an occasional infringement of the ethics of DXCC. It really is time that ARRL or some other body on their behalf, took the bull by the horns and set up a database of complaints.

I do not believe that you can strike a station off the DXCC listings for one infringement, but should complaints persistently be received concerning attempts to belittle the genuine achievements of honest Dx'ers, then I believe this should happen.

Such an arbitrator would have to be an organisation rather than an individual, so that the system could be implemented without a vendetta situation arising, but I really believe

that it needs to be done. Maybe our HF Committee should give the matter some thought, and make approaches to ARRL to sound out their opinions.

I am so glad that I can put my hand on my heart and say that I do not believe this to be a serious problem within the United Kingdom. I have never received a fictitious claim or request for a card that was not in the log.

That makes me feel rather proud, not only to be a British Dx'er, but also to be Chairman of a Club that I know thrives not only healthy competition, but whose Members accept disappointment in a sportsmanlike manner, and do not resort to back door methods to catch their fellow Dx'ers up.

I shall be standing down from the Committee at the next ARM. I have enjoyed the last three years of Committee work, but I have so many things going on at the moment, that time is becoming a big problem, and I am just not getting the time to unwind between flights.

I am sure that out of a membership of near 120 members, the Club will be in good hands next year and in the future. I wish you all and the next Committee every success, and of course I shall continue to be an active Dx'er and member of CDXC.

73 and thanks for your support, especially with the Cluster system, which I shall put every effort into improving.

Ian Shepherd G4LJF

WANTS LIST

Steve, GW4BLE, is still maintaining the Wants List, although I have been unable to include it in this issue. Is such a list still of use and, if so, what form should it take to be most useful? I think this is worth a debate at the A.R.M. but, in any case, feel free to forward your views to any member of the Committee.

Secretary's Notepad

(From Roger, G3LQP)

In order that the CDXC Newsletter doesn't become entirely written by Ian and Don, I reckon it's time I put pen to paper. Membership continues to increase on a weekly basis, with an excellent quality being maintained. A Big Welcome to all New Members; we are delighted to have you join us. It's a far cry from the days when it was just 10 or so members on 525, and it's so pleasing to the Committee that the Club is progressing in a very positive manner.

Unfortunately, despite making appeals in the past, there is still a core of members who persist in making less than favourable comments about CDXC over the air. Please, if you have any complaint or moan to make, put it in writing to the Committee members concerned, or even phone, but don't show the Club in a poor light over the air.

I'm sure most of you worked 3Y Bouvet. I managed it on three bands for, of course, an all-time new one. It leaves me with one to work on the current list - XZ. John, G3HTA, just needs ZA. I wonder which of us will get there first. Stay tuned, as they say.

The CDXC Packet Cluster goes from strength to strength, and I hope to be on within a matter of days. The 4m crystals (ex. Sutton and Cheam) for 70.325 are still available at £8.05 a pair plus postage/packing. Please let me have your orders asap.

Despite the many gales in Jan/Feb, I am pleased to report that I didn't suffer any damage this time round. My sympathy to members who did; at least there are a few new beams on order, hi.

Stew, H44SH, arrived in the UK on 14th March for a 2 month vacation. Hope to meet up with him during that time, and he's very interested in working members on the LF bands, so let me know if you require H44 on LF and I will try to arrange something in the near future.

I worked Ed, W4MGN, the other day. He send his best wishes to all old friends. Also worked CDXC members Bill, EL2WK, and Doreen, EL2DK, on 80 recently. They, too, are looking out for CDXC members on LF.

At the time of writing I hope to visit the Dayton Convention in late April (it depends on Beryl's leave allocation). If I am unable to go, CDXC will be represented by GM3YTS and possibly others, which can't be bad.

That's it for now. I look forward to meeting some of you at the Review meeting in late-May, and of course at Longleat, etc.

Take care and good DXing.

Roger, G3LQP.

Publications of Interest

DX Nets Around the World, List 9: The new 1990 edition of this list is now available from OE2DYL. The list contains data about more than 100 active DX Nets. The price is \$3(US). Package price for all editions (1 to 9) is \$12(US). (\$1(US) = 3IRCs for this purpose, cheques not acceptable). Order with sae from Dieter Konrad, Rosengasse 1, 5020 Salzburg, Austria. While on the subject of publications, I can heartily recommend a subscription to "The DX Magazine", published monthly by VP2ML and containing much background information and photographs relating to major DXpeditions, etc. The subscription from the UK is \$25 per annum airmail.

Pierre, HB9AMO, recently sent me some software he has developed for IBM PC and compatibles. The most interesting program is one which allows you to track what DXCC countries you have worked on each band and to print out a full listing, with totals. Useful when contributing to G3GIQ's table in RadCom or to the one in DXNS! All menu driven. The software can be copied and passed on, although Pierre welcomes contributions from satisfied users.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

From Steve, GW4BLE: I guess there will be some response to G3SXW's letter in the last newsletter. Basically I agree with what Roger is saying (ie more alerts, etc..) but as far as membership of CDXC is concerned there is the requirement of having acquired a certain level of achievement and that is measured by having worked 100 countries. Personally, I think this number is too low, but it is a level to which others must aspire for membership of the group. As Roger quite rightly says, there are so many other aspects to DXing, viz QRP, WARC, Oblasts, etc.. but as far as CDXC membership is concerned the "measuring stick" is DXCC and I for one would not like to see that changed. Any comments??

Murphy called during the recent ARRL Contest! I operated single-band (10m), but on the second day I decided to run barefoot as something of a challenge well, that's not quite true - I did run barefoot but not by choice - the antenna relay packed in on the SB200! It has now been replaced and looking forward to the WPX at the end of the month. The K1EA programme was used for the first time "live" and certainly worked well, the main saving being, of course, in no "after-the-contest-paperwork-blues". Keith, GW0ARK, also worked single-band 10m (but not barefoot, hi!) and the outcome between us will be very close.

That's about it for this time; see you all on the Cluster, I hope!

Regards, Steve

From Andrew, G0HSD: Hello everyone. Not too much to report from this end apart from becoming QRV on packet. I have spent a fascinating week exploring .650 and .675, reading about the Shuttle, how to make toast with a TL922 etc... I only wish I had discovered it before. The cluster has already given me a new country (FT5XA Mni tnx G0DQS!!).

The move is progressing. We should be in by the third week in April and QRV not long after that. Radials are being planted and I am in the process of completing a planning application for a tower. Hopefully by the summer I should have a reasonable station. I was sorry to hear about all the various disasters during the 6 weeks of gales. I was fortunate, only losing my 10m quad and an element off the HF yagi (already damaged in a previous storm). I hope all the affected stations make a full recovery!

I guess we're now all waiting with bated breath for A5, 1S, the KH5s and many more rarities which may appear in the next few weeks. I just hope that the conduct of some of the chasers will have improved since the shameful scenes during the 3Y operation (especially the G's I had the misfortune of hearing). Best of luck everyone for the weeks ahead.

Finally, Please note that our new address w.e.f. mid April will be: The Rectory, Church End, Bledlow, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP17 9PD.

73's Andrew

From Ray, G0AEQ: Ray sends his thanks to all the well-wishers and those who sent cards and wrote during his recent illness. (CDXC members will be pleased to know that Ray is recovering well).

STOP PRESS

Well, it's happened! Bhutan is QRV and XZ expected imminently.

And some further contest results are in. In last year's CQ WPX SSB, GB8FX, operated by G3FXB, scored 7,049,694 points to come first in Europe and 4th world wide. GW4BLE came 2nd in Europe and 11th worldwide with 5,997,406 points. G4NXG/M scored 21,945 pts all-band, while GW0ARK and GB5DU (operated by G4UDU) both operated single-band 28MHz to score 1,846,078 and 1,122,583 points respectively.

CONFESSIONS OF A DX POLICEMAN
(*This piece first appeared in the October 1982 issue of QST, and subsequently in the 15/1/90 issue of QRZ DX*)

Ring ... ring ... ring.

"Hello?"

"Good evening, Tom. This is Bob, WF5ABC, editor of your radio club newsletter, *QRM*."

"Oh, hi, Bob. Didn't we have an eyeball QSO at one of the recent club meetings?"

"Yes, we sure did! I thoroughly enjoyed talking with you about your special activities in Amateur Radio. And that's why I've called. I'm planning to do a series of articles for the newsletter about members' radio activities. I'd appreciate it if you'd share some of your experiences with us."

"Certainly. I'd be happy to discuss my activities with you."

"Great! I'd like to interview you right now if you don't mind. And, if it is okay, I'd like to tape our conversation?"

"No problem. Fire away."

"Okay. I remember from our previous conversation that you are heavily involved in policing DX pileups. Is that correct?"

"Yes, Bob, I am *proud* to admit that I am an ARS policeman."

"ARS?"

"Yes. ARS is an abbreviation dreamed up by the government to stand for Amateur Radio Service."

"Okay, thank you for clarifying that point. Are you also a licensed Amateur Radio operator?"

"Yes, I am a fully qualified and licensed Amateur Radio operator."

"Would you mind if I use your name and call sign in the newsletter article?"

"I'd rather you didn't. I prefer to remain anonymous and conceal my identity to protect myself from harassment by groupies and other hero-worshippers."

"That's fine. I'll certainly respect your privacy. Now, would you please explain the function of an Amateur Radio policeman?"

"Yes, certainly, Bob. An ARS policeman is

an Amateur Radio operator who is dedicated to preserving the continuity of Amateur Radio communications. Individual amateurs like myself help to control the DX pileups. We provide a service to the caller and the callee alike. We help the DX station by ridding his frequency of errant callers who have not yet determined the DX station's modus operandi. And we help the calling stations by alerting them that the DX station is actually listening somewhere else, not on his own frequency. Okay?"

"Yes, that is fine. However, I personally have observed some problems with this procedure. Often one or two callers and a policeman appear to disagree. Would you care to elaborate?"

"Yes, Bob, I would be glad to. I can honestly say that, to the best of my knowledge, no one in the ranks of the ARS policemen has been guilty of any indiscretions; however, there are a few callers in each pileup who just do not recognise authority or decent behaviour. We always attempt to treat everyone in a courteous manner. Unfortunately, even *our* professionalism is sometimes taxed beyond human endurance."

"Okay, thank you for your candid remarks concerning the role you play in helping to make Amateur Radio a better hobby. Now can you describe any special equipment or techniques that you use to perform your special function?"

"Oh, yes. I can talk at length on that subject! Each ARS policeman is, of course, a fully qualified Amateur Radio operator with advanced technical knowledge. And many of us, particularly those who are really interested in enhancing communications, have specially equipped stations."

"Very good. Please go on."

"In my station, I utilise amplifiers capable of putting out maximum power into a sophisticated omnidirectional antenna system. This is necessary to get the message to the maximum number of listeners. My antenna system consists of a separate 160 foot tower with stacked, monoband antennas for each 45 degrees of azimuth. In other words, eight

separate antenna arrays. My system radiates real well! Oh yes, each array can operate on each of the four hf bands, 40 through 10 metres."

"Wow!! Please go on."

"In addition, since I operate exclusively with cw pileups, I have my home computer system programmed as a super-keyer. My super-keyer is preprogrammed with appropriate messages, such as: LID, PLS QSY, BUZZ OFF, UP 2, UP 5, etc. Each of these messages can be repeated any number of times, at any speed, just by pressing the proper key on the computer keyboard. But what is really neat about my system is its ability to handle several pileups simultaneously."

"You can actually monitor more than one pileup?"

"Oh, yes! My home computer system can keep track of up to 16 pileups on each of the hf bands, and automatically or manually switch between each. Since I use only the latest state-of-the-art, broadband, no-tune equipment, I can rapidly switch from one pileup to another - without retuning. The invention of the digital interface for Amateur Radio equipment has revolutionised policing."

"But how do you find these pileups?"

"Very simple. My computer system is capable of scanning the cw portion of each band for pileups. It samples each frequency segment for a high population of stations. A high population indicates a high probability that a pileup is on that frequency."

"Sounds very sophisticated. How effective is it?"

"Oh, it is effective now. When I first started using the scanning system it kept finding a pileup that was actually the Woodpecker."

"Ha-ha ... oh, I'm sorry. Was it difficult to avoid the Woodpecker?"

"Yes, at first it was, but I finally developed a simple and foolproof Woodpecker-detection method. Whenever the scanning system detects a suspected pileup, it automatically causes strings of dits to be transmitted in the known direction of the Wood-

pecker. If the suspected pileup moves, uhh, changes frequency, then it is the Woodpecker, not a real pileup."

"Wow! That is really super."

"Another unique feature of my computer system is my LID Data Base."

"A lid data base?"

"Yes, Bob. My computer system keeps very accurate dossiers on those poor operators who just cannot seem to become educated. Neophyte types are automatically mailed a very polite letter. Hard-core mavericks, and there are several dozen, are automatically called by telephone. Their phone numbers are automatically dialled by my computer system. The system is lovingly called MABEL. MABEL dials the offender's number and plays an appropriately-worded computer-generated message. Unfortunately many of these people have resorted to having their telephone numbers changed periodically or to using telephone answering devices. The can be very uncooperative."

"Wow! Wow! Wow! This is really interesting. Tell me more."

"There is a lot more to describe, but most of it is really beyond the grasp of the average Amateur Radio operator."

"Are there any problems associated with this sophistication?"

"No, not with our side of the effort. The real problem is with the DX station. The average rare DX station fails to realise our importance and, in most cases, just ignores us. This apathy makes our job very difficult."

"In what way?"

"Well, the greatest problem exists with scheduling. The DX station just doesn't keep us informed about their operating schedules. It is difficult to schedule our time around their haphazard operating periods. I had some very sophisticated computer programmes written especially for this application by a PhD from an Ivy League college, but no one has used them yet. But, basically, the real problem is with the DX station's mode of operation. The DX station just does not bother to coordinate his activities through us. Invariably, the DX station will be listening up 2 while

we are telling the callers to listen up 10. It's a waste of resources. We've even considered offering a college-level course in 'pile-up coordination' through local community colleges."

"This is very interesting, and it ought to make a tremendous article for the newsletter ..."

"Uhhh, Bob, I've got to run now. The DXpedition to Bouvet Island is scheduled to come on in about 5 minutes, and I must keep the guys in line."

"Very good. I've really enjoyed this session with you. I'm sure the club members will also enjoy this topic. Thank you very much for enlightening us. Perhaps we can continue this discussion at the next club meeting."

"Anytime. Glad to help. But now I've really got to run. See you in the next pileup!"

"Good night and thanks again."

Antenna Spot

I don't know how many of you attended ON4UN's lecture on HF Yagi design at last year's HF Convention. I was fortunate enough to chair that session and found John's insights into Yagis extremely interesting and thought-provoking, even though most of us will never be in a position to erect large monobanders. Mind you, I detect a move to better antenna systems amongst UK DXers and contesters. The QRP gang have been in there battling - Chris, G4BUE, wrote up his modifications to a Western Electronics tribander in *Practical Wireless* a few years ago, noting that extending the boom improved the performance very substantially. I have noted the same effect in moving from a J-beam TB3 to a Hy-Gain TH5DX, and my contest scores have gone up significantly as a result. Both Dave, G4BUO, and Nigel, G3TXF, put up 10 metre monobanders for the CQWW CW Contest last year, and I know Nigel has also used a 15 metre monobander quite recently. However, simply moving to a bigger tribander or a monobander isn't necessarily a guarantee of instant success.

Thanks to Dick, G0MFO/AA6MC, I have recently had the opportunity to look more closely at some of the work which ON4UN has been doing, and to try out John's antenna design software, of which Dick bought a copy at the Convention. John's work will eventually be published as a book and should be of great interest. The "standard" works up to now have been the W6SAI Beam Antenna Handbook and, more recently, W2PV's book *Yagi Antenna Design*. W6SAI relied mainly on experience and "rule of thumb" to come up with some competent, but certainly not optimised, Yagi designs. W2PV did a substantial amount of computer analysis, but the work was largely theoretical, although it did include some practical designs. ON4UN's work takes this further, not only calculating element dimensions and spacing, but also feed arrangements, feeder losses, and mechanical parameters (wind loadings, etc). The software includes a

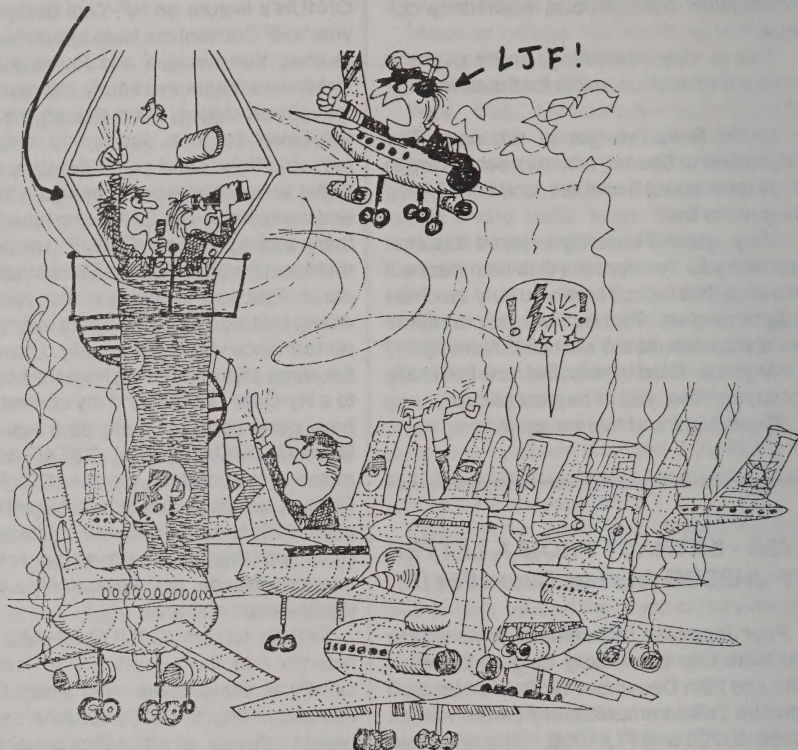
XV2A - EXTRACT FROM A LETTER BY JH3DPB (*via Les Nouvelles DX*)

Four Japanese radio amateurs visited Ho Chi Minh City (previously Saigon) between 19th and 29th December 1989. We operated from the Telecommunications centre with an IC750, IC726 and FL2100B. The antennas were a 2-element HB9CV for 20 and 10 metres, an HB9CV for 15 and 6 metres, a 5-element Yagi for 10 metres and dipoles. The equipment remained in Vietnam, a Christmas present for the officials, teachers and students at the centre (school). They will be QRV very soon.

We started operations on 21st December at 1258z on 15 metres and finished on 28th December at 1442z after 17,594 QSOs broken down as follows: 40 on 1.8, 139 on 3.5, 110 on 3.8, 1767 on 7, 76 on 10, 3876 on 14, 21 on 18, 3608 on 21, 45 on 24, 6757 on 28 and 1155 on 50MHz.

The operators were JA3UB, JA3AYU, JE3MAS/5H1HK and JH3DPB.

No This Is Brendan McCartney!



Both pilots and controllers benefit from good radiotelephony discipline — that is, the proper use of standard format and phraseology during air-ground voice interchange. Otherwise, the result is chaos or worse — tragic!

database of well-known antennas (and some of the popular US designs come out as by no means optimal), and also allows data generated by the programme to be transferred to YO and MN (Yagi Optimizer and Mininec) to allow full performance data (radiation patterns, etc) to be calculated.

(Incidentally, MN and YO are both now at version 2.00. MN is available at \$75 and YO at \$90, both from Brian Beezley, K6STI, 507-1/2 Taylor, Vista, CA 92084, USA. Upgrades from previous versions cost \$50 and \$60

respectively. All prices are 6% higher for California and non-US orders. Both were reviewed in the March/April 1990 issue of NCJ, along with reviews of a host of other contest and antenna design software).

ON4UN argues that your antenna system needs to take account of wave angle. An antenna which is put up at such a height as to achieve very low angles of radiation will be excellent for band openings and closings, plus some of the very long-haul DX, but will lose out to a physically lower antenna for

those important medium distance paths (eg Europe to East Coast US) when the band is wide open. This assumes level ground. If the ground slopes away from your antenna at a suitable angle you are in luck. You can end up with just one antenna lobe which covers all the wave angles you are interested in. Otherwise, you will need to have two stacked and phased antennas in order to avoid the null at medium wave angles which occurs with a high single Yagi. So start planning chaps - not only do you need to go for monobanders, but stacked ones at that!

Just as a final observation, here in mainland UK we lose out to stations farther south whatever we put up by way of antennas. From CT3 or EA8 it is possible to run at very high QSO rates for hours on end in a contest, or to achieve excellent DX results, with very modest antennas. And the higher bands stay open for longer each day. Even on Jersey this was brought home to us last October. Geoff, GJ4ICD, was hearing and working large numbers of VK and JA stations on 6m which could not be heard even on the South Coast of England, and even on 10 metres during the CQWW Contest we noticed that the openings to Japan, W6, etc, were rather longer and

better than stations on the mainland, just 100 miles or so north of us, were getting.

So there we are. All it needs for a perfect contest or DX location is a rare prefix, physically close to the equator, plus stacked monobanders on 160 through 10! Any volunteers to help set up the CDXC megastation?

73 de Don, G3XTT

Ian, G4LJF, has passed me details of an interesting telephone-based experiment operating in Australia. The international phone number is +61 2 652 2285, and if you have a touch-tone (DTMF) phone you can then key in various codes to dial up a frequency, mode and antenna selection to listen anywhere between 30kHz and 30MHz. A chance to hear how your signals sound in the antipodes! The system is part of an experimental development by Philip Collins & Associates Pty. Ltd. It is not a public service, but has been set up as a test of a remote receiving system, and users are asked to forward the results of any tests to Marc Robinson, one of the Directors, at 8A Moore Ave, West Lindfield, NSW 2070 Australia. Sounds like the sort of thing which could be quite useful as a public service, preferably with a transmitter as well. Working T32 on 160 would be no trouble then! I have not tried it, but can send a photocopy of the instructions if you feel like running up a big international phone bill!

CDXC Events Diary

(This Diary has been compiled by G4JVG who will be pleased to receive additions, alterations, etc. At the moment a number of the dates/events are subject to alteration or change.)

21/22 April	RSGB National Convention, NEC Birmingham
27 May	Annual Review meeting, 2pm at G4LJF's QTH
2/3 June	HF NFD
24 June	Longleat Rally (Western DX Group Hospitality Tent)
Summer	Bar-B-Q or dinner, to be arranged.
29/30 Sept.	RSGB HF Convention at Daventry.
27/28 Oct.	CQ World Wide Phone Contest (CDXC multi-op entry? Single operators, particularly outside Europe, required for CDXC "Team" entry - please contact G4JVG or G3XTT by early October)
24/25 Nov.	CQ World Wide CW Contest (Should there be a CDXC multi-op entry this year for the first time?) Single operators, particularly outside Europe, required for CDXC "Team" entry - please contact G4JVG or G3XTT by early November.
8 Dec.	Annual Christmas Dinner at Ye Olde Swan, Thames Ditton, YLs/XYLs welcome! Please book your place by 17th November - phone G4JVG on 0734-722538.

Contest Corner

I write this just prior to the CQ WPX Contest. There will be a CDXC team taking part, but unfortunately Ian, G4LJF, has been unable to get his antennas back in the air and G3RZP, who had also offered his station, has had to go off the States (it's a hard life!), so it looks like a modest effort as G6UW from the Cambridge University Wireless Society shack. Nevertheless, I'm sure much fun will be had by all. Meanwhile, GB8FX took top European honours in last year's event. Now I wonder who the operator could possibly have been ... And talking about AI, it was good to hear him going strong as ZC4ESB in the Commonwealth Contest. Can't you operate from elsewhere more often AI, and give the rest of us a chance from the UK?

Computer-based contesters will know that the K1EA contest software is now up to release 6.04, but is no longer Shareware. This release supports multi-single and multi-multi operation as well as putting right some oddities from earlier releases. I have also been playing recently with a computer-logging package developed by G3WGV. This has many similarities to K1EA, but is geared right now to the RSGB contests, and will print out in RSGB HF or VHF contest log format. The latest issue of National Contest Journal (published by ARRL) contains reviews of a number of contest logging programs, though the majority of these are relevant only to N.American contesters.

DX Calendar (Tnx G4DYO)

Til Apr	F6GQN/9L
Til Apr 3	T32T, etc
Til Apr 4	T5 by I2JSB
Til Apr 5	KH6JEB/KH7
Til Apr 8	NA-28 NL7SY
Til Apr 10	A5 by VK9NS
Til Apr 30	CF/VO/CZ calls
Til Apr 30	FY/F1JLO
Til May	NA-70 by KL7Y
Til Jun	SM0OIG/YN
Til Jun?	VR6JR by G3OKQ
Til Dec	ZM pfx by ZL's
Til Dec	VR200 Pitcairn
Til Jan '91	ZL0AIC Antarc
Mar-Apr	UA0/GB calls
Mar 21-Apr 11	CT3EU by G3PFS
Mar 22-Apr 1	JK1ZNB/JD Oga.
Mar 27-Apr 9	JW by G's??
Mar 28-Apr 12	VK9LE by VK3OT
Mar 28-Apr 16	HR by F2JD
Mar 29-Apr 5	5W by N6AMG
Mar 29-Apr 8	ZL8 on 6m
Mar 31-Apr 2	NA-46 NT1I
Apr??	3D2YA Yasawa I
Apr??	A51JS ??
Apr	Acteon Is FO5BI
Apr	UI8D Obl 173
Apr-May	5B4AAJ by G0HTK
Apr-Oct	Pacific AA6LF
Apr-Apr 91	Y90ANT
Apr 1-Jul 27	JX7DFA
Apr 2-9	ZL7 on 6m
Apr 3-28	V47KJI by W2BJI
Apr 4-28	JG6CVO/JD1
Apr 5-8	PY0T by PY's??
Apr 5-12	VK9L by N6AMG
Apr 6-8	Visalia DX Conven
Apr 7-8	SP-DX CW Contest
Apr 7-21	EU-10 GM0MGM??

Apr 8-9	OC-104 YJ8BKS
Apr 11-14	YV0AA AVES IS
Apr 11-15	4Z7G & 4Z8C
Apr 13-16	GB8CC very QRV
Apr 14-?	PA3CXC/ST0
Apr 14-23	JARVIS ISLAND
Apr 16-Sep	CE by F2JD
Apr 17-21	ZS200WOL
Apr 19-24	VP2E by W's
Apr 19-May 4	Palmyra/K. Reef
Apr 21	Int. Marconi Day
Apr 21-22	T70A/10
Apr 24-May 15	ER3W
Apr 28-29	Helvetia CW/SSB Ctst
Apr 28-30	V21AJI by W2BJI
Apr 28-30	Lynx DX Conven.
late Apr	NA-58 by K1RH
late Apr	Marquesas AA6LF
Apr/May??	KH7 by KD7P?
May	J.da Nova FR5AI?
May	Tuomoto AA6LF
May	A4 Kuria M Is
May	Rotuma/VK2BCH
May 1-8	GB2HI Herm Is
May 6-11	LG5LG/SJ9WL
May 10-31	9N5CW/DX - SP's
May 12-13	CQ-M CW/SSB Cts
May 19	ISWL MEET
May 19-20	ARI CW/SSB Ctst
May 19-21	ITU CW/SSB Ctst
May 19-21	Michigan QSO Party
May 25-27	Uji Is JI6KVR
May 25-29	4U5ITU
May 26	UBA DX HAPPENING
May 26-27	CQ WPX CW Ctst
May 27-31	NA-74 KL7IEI

DX Editors are welcome to use news items from this newsletter (with due acknowledgement), but please check with the editor if you wish to use a complete article.